



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Samaritan temporarily pauses Lebanon labor and delivery services due to regional OB-GYN workforce shortage**

Safety plans are in place and commitment to restoring services remains strong

(Dec. 18, 2025 -- CORVALLIS, Ore.) — Samaritan Health Services announced today that labor and delivery services at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital will be temporarily paused beginning Jan. 15, 2026, due to a significant regional shortage of OB-GYN physicians that has made continuous inpatient coverage unavailable.

This decision follows a series of unexpected physician departures across the Valley, including the resignation of OB-GYN physicians at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital and the simultaneous departure of OB-GYN physicians at another regional practice. Together, these events have created a regional workforce disruption that significantly limits available OB-GYN coverage.

Despite extensive and ongoing recruitment efforts – including a broad national search, outreach to physician staffing agencies and independent clinicians, and exploration of temporary coverage options – Samaritan has not yet been able to secure the continuous inpatient physician call coverage required to safely operate labor and delivery services in Lebanon.

“Patient safety is always our highest priority,” said Jennifer Kimberlain, vice president of patient care services at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital. “Labor and delivery services require consistent, around-the-clock physician coverage. Without that, operating intermittently or repeatedly going on diversion would create confusion and risk for families who would not know when it is safe to present for care. This pause is temporary, and we remain fully committed to restoring labor and delivery services in Lebanon as quickly and safely as possible.”

Following review and the recommendation of clinicians, nurses and operational leaders, Samaritan determined that a temporary pause is the safest course of action until appropriate clinician staffing can be secured.

During this time, Samaritan will continue to provide outpatient OB-GYN care at the Lebanon Health Center located on Fifth Street on a limited basis and is hopeful that temporary clinician staffing may allow labor and delivery services to resume as early as April 2026.

In the meantime, pregnant patients who are anticipating delivery after mid-January should work with their doctor to select a different delivery location. Labor and delivery services at Samaritan’s other hospitals will continue without disruption.

### **Support for Patients, Families and Employees**

To support patients and staff during this temporary pause, Samaritan has implemented several measures including:

- Providing individualized outreach and concierge support to help expectant parents transition care to Albany or Corvallis
- Implementing safe transfer protocols for urgent and emergent situations

- Keeping our highly skilled labor and delivery nurses onsite to assist the Emergency Department with any obstetric emergencies
- Partnering with the Oregon Nurses Association to explore temporary staffing solutions and redeployment opportunities for our nurses during this period—no layoffs will occur

Earlier this year, Samaritan hosted more than 70 community and employee listening sessions and publicly reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining labor and delivery services at all five Samaritan hospitals. That commitment remains unchanged. This temporary pause is driven solely by patient safety and current workforce realities and is unrelated to the proposed affiliation or earlier service evaluations.

We will continue to provide updates and share progress as we work toward restoring services. For more information and FAQs, please visit [samhealth.org/LebanonOB-GYN](https://samhealth.org/LebanonOB-GYN).

### **About Samaritan Health Services**

Samaritan Health Services is a nonprofit regional health system that brings together five community hospitals, more than 100 physician clinics and multiple health insurance plans to serve more than 290,000 residents in Oregon’s Benton, Lincoln and Linn counties. Samaritan employs more than 5,000 workers including 620 clinicians and is governed by a volunteer board of community members and physicians.

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